FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARTIST SUN SMITH-FORÊT CREATES MONUMENTAL-SCALE PANORAMIC TEXTILE ARTWORK IN SHELDON EXHIBIT

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Sheldon Art Galleries presents Sun Smith-Forêt: Riverwork Project, February 14 – April 11, 2020 in the Bellwether Gallery of St. Louis Artists. An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, February 14 from 5 – 7 p.m. The Sheldon Art Galleries are open Tuesdays, Noon – 8 p.m.; Wednesdays - Fridays, Noon – 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermission. Admission is free. For more information on exhibitions, visit the galleries’ website at TheSheldon.org.

The Riverwork Project, conceived by Sun Smith-Forêt, is a collaborative work created by more than 100 artists from a variety of ages, races, experiences and cultural backgrounds. Each artist contributed a small segment of fabric to the 300-foot long panorama, drawing on popular, scientific, romantic and historic ideas and depictions of water and rivers. Comprised of pliable sections of sewn, layered, hand-stenciled and painted cloth, the work encompasses both the wall and floor of the gallery space. Construction techniques and visual vocabulary bend geometry and symbol, becoming both a shorthand for, and elaboration of, these cultural metaphors.

The artists explore a wide range of themes in their contributions, including immigration and settlement, Native Americans, agriculture, cotton production, the western frontier, slave commerce, the underground railroad, cities, transportation, hydroelectric power, advancing technologies, wildlife, geography, climate, music, literature, film, dreams, memories, reflections, seasons and light.

It is up to the viewer to explore the literal and figurative “patchwork” of these themes and reflect on the power of rivers and water resources throughout history, and in our daily lives.

Sun Smith-Forêt is a professional studio artist, teacher and independent curator. She has been formally active in textile construction, quilts, sculpture, and functional and amuletic objects since finishing graduate school at Washington University.

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